THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks were offered. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks. The evaluation of bids is underway.

(b) So far, 73 discoveries have been made in 21 blocks under NELP regime. An in-place reserve of 642 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas has been established so far from these discoveries. The details of the block wise estimates are available with Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons.

(c) Exploration works have been carried out in 179 blocks, out of 203 blocks awarded under NELP.

Fall in profit of ONGC

2105. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has reported a huge drop in its net profit for the first half of the ongoing fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and factors responsible for fall in net profit of ONGC;

(c) whether the sectors in which ONGC is facing fall in net profit would be checked; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)'s net profit has dropped by 13% from Rs.11,445 crore in first half (H1) 2008-2009 to Rs.9,938 crore in H1, 2009-10. The fall in net profit of ONGC in H1 2009-10 compared to H1 2008-09 is mainly due to:-

(i) Reduction in sales revenue on account of lower selling price due to steep fall in international prices of crude oil as well as reduced sales quantity due to less production of crude oil.

(ii) Steep fall in prices of Value Added Products as these are also linked to international prices of crude oil.

(iii) Increase in average exchange rate of Indian Rupees *vis-a-vis* US Dollar.

(iv) Increase in expenditure on dry wells.

(c) and (d) All out effort is being made to augment crude oil production by implementing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) in various fields of ONGC as well as technology induction/absorption/adoption to enhance oil/gas production. ONGC is also taking up some structural changes and creation of well-coordinated Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) to ensure better coordination in acquisition, processing, interpretation and drilling activities.